

CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A method of associating session tickets, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving, by a ticketing authority server, a ticket generation request and information about a client node;
identifying, by a ticketing authority server, a master session ticket associated in a storage element with the client node;
generating, by a ticketing authority server, a derivative session ticket for the client node;
associating, by a ticketing authority server, the derivative session ticket with the master session ticket; and
storing, by a ticketing authority server, information about the client node and the derivative session ticket in the storage element.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) further comprises identifying a master session ticket for the client node by using the received information to query the storage element.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises generating a master session ticket for the client node.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) further comprises assigning a session profile type to the derivative session ticket.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) further comprises associating, by the ticketing authority server, the derivative session ticket and the master session ticket by storing a reference to the derivative session ticket in the storage element entry for the master session ticket.
6. A system for associating session tickets comprising:
 - a master session ticket;
 - a derivative session ticket; and
 - a ticketing authority server receiving a ticket generation request and information about a client node, identifying the master session ticket associated with the client node, generating the derivative session ticket for the client node, associating the derivative session ticket with the master session ticket, and storing information about the client node and the derivative session ticket in a storage element.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the master session ticket further comprises a client identifier.
8. The system of claim 7 wherein the client identifier comprises a user name.
9. The system of claim 7 wherein the client identifier comprises a domain name.
10. The system of claim 6 wherein the master session ticket further comprises a session profile type.
11. The system of claim 6 wherein the derivative session ticket further comprises a session profile type.
12. The system of claim 6 wherein the derivative session ticket further comprises a reference to the master session ticket.
13. A method of renewing associated session tickets, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving, by a ticket authority server, a session ticket renewal request and a session ticket;
retrieving, by a ticket authority server, the session associated with the received session ticket;

renewing, by a ticket authority server, session expiration date;

retrieving, by a ticket authority server, the master session ticket associated with the received session ticket;

renewing, by a ticket authority server, the session expiration date of the master session ticket;

retrieving, by a ticket authority server, any derivative ticket associated with the master session ticket; and

renewing, by a ticket authority server, the session expiration date of the derivative session ticket associated with the master session ticket.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein step (b) further comprises querying a storage element to retrieve the session information associated with the session ticket.